

Message

From: Thiesing, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B7B594716A844C65BD55C43A6B033F58-THIESING, MARY ANN]
Sent: 5/30/2017 6:41:48 PM
To: Shaw, Hanh [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=60509321022b49a39f6f6f8df62858de-Shaw, Hanh]
Subject: RE: US 95-Thorn Creek-Moscow rerouting
Attachments: PN_Thorncreek to Moscow.pdf

From: Shaw, Hanh
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Thiesing, Mary <Thiesing.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: US 95-Thorn Creek-Moscow rerouting

Thank you, Mary Anne. Could you also send me a copy of the public notice?

From: Thiesing, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 11:20 AM
To: Shaw, Hanh <Shaw.Hanh@epa.gov>
Cc: Bujak, Charissa <bujak.charissa@epa.gov>
Subject: US 95-Thorn Creek-Moscow rerouting

US 95 reroute/construction, Thorn Creek-Moscow, ID- The Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers has issued Public Notice NWW- 2004-0600046-B02, which identifies a proposal by the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) for the construction of 6.34 miles of new 4-lane divided highway for US 95, between Mile Posts 337.67 and 344.00. The proposal would permanently fill 3.43 acres of wetlands (3.23 acres of emergent and 0.20 acres of scrub-shrub) and discharge approximately 620 cubic yards of road fill materials below the ordinary high water mark of five (5) unnamed drainages,. Those Five (5) drainages would be crossed with the new alignment, resulting in the piping of 4,290 linear feet of unnamed tributaries/drainages. The proposed project would construct 4,030 linear feet of drainages on-site, adjacent to the new roadway. The Corps prepared an EIS for the proposed project; EPA commented that the applicant's preferred alternative (E-2) did not appear to be the LEDPA, since it proposes to fill considerably more wetland acreage and would result in the loss of more farmland than the other alternatives proposed. EPA believes that the Central route described in the FEIS appears to be the LEDPA. The proposed project purpose, to improve highway safety and increase capacity on the relevant stretch of US-95, would be met by the three alternatives brought forward in the FEIS. The impacts from the preferred alternative would result in loss of more rare and remnant Palouse prairie, which currently is approximately 1% of its estimated historic range. Some of the overall mitigation measures proposed could increase impacts to high value resources, and proposed deprioritizing of Palouse prairie restoration sites nearest to the E-2 alignment could decrease and undermine future restoration efforts. (Compensatory mitigation is proposed through an existing bank). We are currently coordinating with ID DEQ, ID DFG and the Corps to determine the agencies' positions on the work. The Paradise Ridge Defense Coalition has filed suit with IDT, and the litigation is ongoing. Contact: Charissa Bujak (bujak.charissa@epa.gov; 208-378-5754).

Mary Anne Thiesing
Regional Wetland Ecologist
(206) 553-6114

Personal Privacy / Ex. 6
thiesing.mary@epa.gov